

Serial No. 09/626,366
Amendment dated February 24, 2003
Reply to Office Action of November 22, 2002

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.(Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for assessing deviations from a preselected medical treatment that has been indicated by appropriate diagnosis from a clinician, comprising the steps of:

- (A) gathering patient care data and diagnosing a malady;
- (B) storing said patient care data and said diagnosis of said malady in a data storage means as a data record;
- (C) identifying an appropriate clinical pathway to follow in treating said diagnosed malady from a plurality of clinical pathways stored in said data storage means;
- (D) implementing said identified clinical pathway and recording each clinical action action taken by a clinician as a data record in said data storage means;
- (E) monitoring and comparing said recorded clinical actions taken by said clinician to said identified clinical pathway so as to identify one or more to determine variations from said identified clinical pathway; and
- (F) issuing an alert notice to alerting said clinician at the time of performance of said clinical action identified as a variance from said identified appropriate clinical pathway.

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2.(Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein said gathering of said patient care data includes applying the use of a risk assessment tool comprising a rating scale to objectively characterize the subjective condition of said patient's skin and wound.

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3.(Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2 wherein said rating scales scale identifies factors most closely associated with the formation of a selected malady.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3 wherein said factors are associated with parameters that are identified and assessed by said clinician, and a rating number assigned to each of said parameters that corresponds to said clinician's objective assessment of a wound/skin condition.

5.(Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4 wherein said a finite numerical score is selected from a preselected range and assigned to each of said parameters.

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6. (Original) A method according to claim 5 wherein a numerical score at or above a preselected value is indicative of a high risk for development of said malady.

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7. (Original) A method according to claim 3 wherein said parameters, along with their assigned scores, are stored at a known, searchable, and retrievable location in said data storage means.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein said monitoring includes reviewing each of said parameters, and identifying a most likely course of intervention to be followed by said clinician.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for assessing deviations from a preselected medical treatment that has been indicated by appropriate diagnosis from a clinician, comprising the steps of:

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- (A) gathering patient care data and diagnosing a malady;
 - (B) storing said patient care data and said diagnosis of said malady in a data storage means of a general purpose computer as a data record;
 - (C) identifying an appropriate clinical pathway to follow in treating said diagnosed malady from a plurality of clinical pathways stored in said data storage means;
 - (D) implementing said identified clinical pathway and recording each clinical ~~actions~~ action taken by a clinician as a data record in said data storage means;

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(E) monitoring and comparing said recorded clinical actions taken by said clinician to said identified clinical pathway so as to identify one or more to ~~determine~~ variations from said identified clinical pathway; and

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(F) issuing an alert notice to alerting said clinician of an identified ~~variation~~ a variance from said identified clinical pathway at the time of performance of said clinical action identified as a variance.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9 wherein said gathering of said patient care data includes observing and recording a patient's vital signs as a data record.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 10 wherein said recorded vital signs are each compared to a preselected value for said vital sign and monitored for deviations that are indicative of a high risk for development of a skin malady.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 9 wherein said implementing said identified clinical pathway and recording clinical actions taken by said clinician includes implementing a skin and wound care regimen.

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13. (Original) A method according to claim 12 wherein said skin and wound care regimen are monitored for deviations that are indicative of a high risk for deterioration of said skin and wound.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 12 wherein said regimen comprises selection and application of dressings to a wound.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for assessing deviations from a preselected medical treatment that has been indicated by appropriate diagnosis from a clinician, comprising the steps of:

a4 (A) gathering patient care data according to a predetermined regimen for diagnosing a malady of the skin;

(B) storing said patient care data and said diagnosis of said malady in a data storage means of a general purpose computer;

(C) identifying an appropriate clinical pathway from a plurality of pathways for treating said diagnosed malady from a plurality of clinical pathways stored in said data storage means as a data record;

(D) implementing said identified clinical pathway via clinical actions taken by a clinician;

(E) monitoring and comparing said clinical actions taken by said clinician to said identified clinical pathway so as to identify one or more to ~~determine~~ variations from said identified clinical pathway; and

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(F) issuing an alert notice to alerting said clinician of an identified
variation a variance from said identified clinical pathway at the time of
performance of said clinical action identified as a variance.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15 wherein said regimen comprises answering a questionnaire that quantifies a patient's satisfaction with his/her health status.